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**To:** [Kent Smith](#)  
**Subject:** CityWatch for Friday, July 31, 2015  
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Here is the latest CityWatch brief for Friday, July 31, 2015

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## IF IT'S BROKEN...FIX IT



### **Getting Serious about LA's Sidewalk Repairs: A Five-Point 'Let's-Get-On-with-It' Plan**

**Ken Alpern**

FIXING LA-Last Tuesday night's City Council Board of Public Works and Budget Committees met and allowed a lot of good public input to a series of concerned and available Councilmembers and City officials. The attendance and input were both outstanding--I want to thank Councilmember Mike Bonin, in particular, for allowing the outreach and advice to...



### **Latino Politicians Putting Climate Change Ahead of Constituents**

**Joel Kotkin**

POLITICS-Racial and economic inequality may be key issues facing America today, but the steps often pushed by progressives, including minority politicians, seem more likely to exacerbate these divisions than repair them. In a broad arc of policies affecting everything from housing to employment, the agenda being adopted serves to stunt upward...



### **Worlds Apart on Kathryn Steinle: When Political Opportunism Reigns Supreme**

**John Mirisch**

MUSING WITH MIRISCH-The small Swedish Jewish Museum in Stockholm is tucked away on a side street. Discreet signage instructs would-be visitors to push a button which activates a camera, so they can be screened before they are granted entry. The museum's permanent exhibition fills one fairly small room. Most of the objects on display are Jewish...



### **Garcetti Passes, Wesson Fails**

**Jack Humphreville**

LA WATCHDOG-Our Los Angeles Times has issued midterm letter grades for Controller Ron Galperin (B-) and City Attorney Mike Feuer (B+) and will be posting grades for City Council President Herb Wesson this Sunday and Mayor Eric Garcetti the following Sunday. Our City is facing many difficult issues, ranging from a lagging economy, relatively high...



### **What LA Really Needs: A Part-time City Council and a Part-time Mayor!**

**Dennis Zine**

JUST THE FACTS-There are so many serious and pressing problems facing the City of Los Angeles and few if any real solutions are being proposed or implemented by our elected and appointed leaders at City Hall. I will start with the current city budget. Former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa had a \$7.7 billion total budget in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. ...



### **Why Don't the City's Women Managers Hire More Women?**

**Denyse Selesnick**

MY TURN-Perusing the web is a little like the soap operas of yesteryear. You get suckered in! One link leads to

another link and then one is exposed to a barrage both facts and idiocy. The reason for this discussion was my attending a July Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) meeting with the Department of Water and Power. General...



## **Cleaning Up LA City Hall: 'It's What's Legal That's the Problem'**

**Bob Gelfand**

GELFAND'S WORLD-Everyone understands that developers own our city government. Sure, there are some officials here and there who are upright and independent, but recent history shows that the developers typically get their way in spite of public opposition. Whether it is a zoning change for an office tower or the required permits for a new mall,

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## **Not So Fast LA! Let's Consider the Real Costs of Hosting the Olympics before We Jump In**

**Greg Nelson**

SPORTS POLITICS-On Monday, Boston withdrew from its offer to be the nation's bidder for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. In January, Los Angeles finished second to Boston when the U.S. Olympic Committee made its decision. After Boston was selected to polish up its bid before submitting it to the International Olympic Committee for a final decision,...

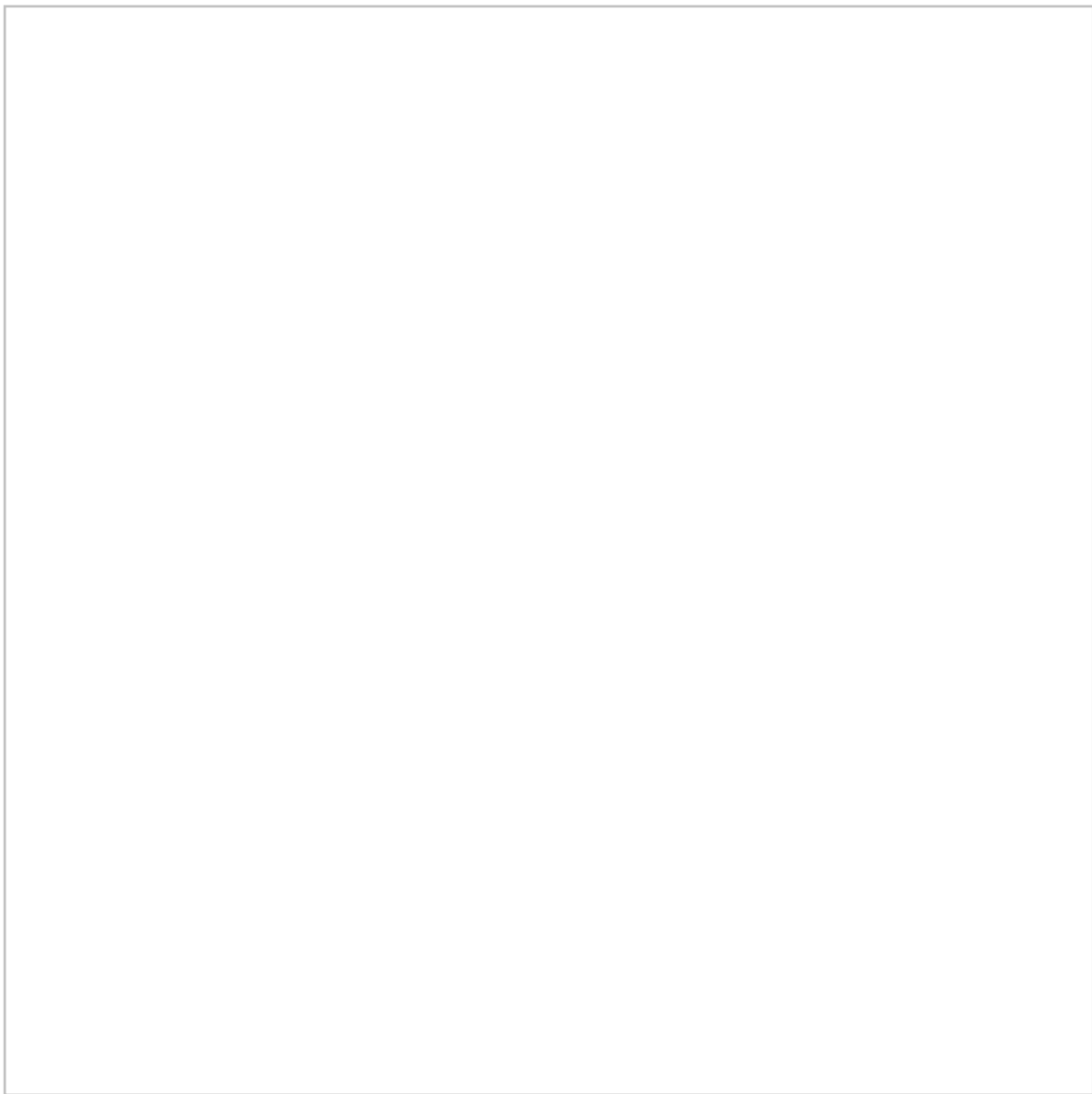


## **Party Crashing for Political Access: Schwarzenegger and My Pantsuit**

**Charlotte Laws**

CALIFORNIA ACCESS POLITICS-Party crashing—or gate-crashing, as it is sometimes called—is an art form that I stumbled upon as a teen. I taught myself how to finagle into any event, anywhere, anytime. It required being part private eye, part actress and part chutzpah machine. I had to think outside of the box, throw myself into the role, and whip my...





## **Plus, these CityWatch Stories:**

**No Climate Change Phonies Please: The Westwood Bike Lane is the Future of LA ... Paul Koretz wants to 'Kill It'**

Michael Fleming

**Could the Ellis Act Kill Affordable Housing?**

Tim Deegan

**What's In a Name? Apparently Privilege, Access and Support ... Just Ask LA's Politicos**

John Campbell and Helen Berman

**Yet Another Crisis at Roosevelt High School: You Can Help**

John Fernandez, Ph.D.

## Donald Trump: the Candidate America Wants and Might Deserve

Jared Keller

## LA's City Council KO's Large Magazine Guns ... Almost!

Daniel Guss

## California Needs an Execution Procedure to Carry Out the Death Penalty

Michele Hanisee

## Medicare at 50: Successful, Popular, and Threatened By Conservatives

Terrance Heath

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